

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Abstract of the specification as follows:

“The present invention ~~provides: an~~ includes an inorganic layered compound dispersion prepared by cleaving the inorganic layered compound to a thinner layer level and capable of providing high corrosion resistance and gas barrier properties when utilized in the form of a coating composition or a gas barrier coating composition; a gas barrier coating composition with which films having high transparency and satisfactory gas barrier properties can be obtained at low cost when the gas barrier layers are formed in a thinner film form and, when the film thickness is increased, films having good transparency and still better gas barrier properties can be obtained; and plastic- or paper-based gas barrier packaging containers having high gas barrier performance characteristics as obtainable by application of such a gas barrier coating composition. ~~The present invention provides: provides an inorganic layered compound dispersion, wherein an inorganic layered compound (b) is dispersed using a peroxide (a) in a dispersion medium.~~”